



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE **TWO SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City men were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for being felons in possession of firearms. The sentencings mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Louis F. Saenz**, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrio D. Smith this afternoon to four years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 28, 2003, **Saenz** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge pistol-grip shotgun on July 9, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Saenz** has three 1997 criminal felony convictions for assault, auto theft and leaving the scene of an accident and a 2000 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

Saenz was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on June 10, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment, which was returned by a federal grand jury on July 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Andre Booker**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to two years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 4, 2003, **Booker** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Sig Sauer pistol on May 2, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Booker** has two 1993 criminal felony convictions for stealing a motor vehicle and tampering with utilities.

Booker was originally charged in an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on July 19, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow